

Germany, Item 9

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**Agenda Item 9: Space and Sustainable development**

Honorable Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

Space technologies and applications bear great potential for the achievement and monitoring of every single one of the **17 sustainable development goals, SDGs**. Germany puts a great emphasis on sustainability and intensive international cooperation, which is key for achieving sustainability targets more effectively and mitigating risks resulting from climate change.

Germany continues to be strongly committed to promoting sustainable development through international cooperation in space activities and welcomes the recent adoption of the “**Space2030 agenda resolution**” by the General Assembly for which we acted as co-sponsor. We further strongly support the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) “**Space4SDGs**” initiative and the UN Secretary General report “**Our Common Agenda**” focusing on sustainable use of outer space and international Space Traffic Management.

Germany very recently hosted the Living Planet Symposium 2022 in Bonn together with ESA from 23-27 May 2022. It provided a unique opportunity to exchange and review internationally how satellite-based earth observation can contribute to solving the pressing global challenges such as climate change. The symposium put a focus on how disruptive technologies and actors are changing the traditional Earth observation landscape, which is also creating new opportunities for public and private sector interactions. On this occasion, the "Space for our Planet" exhibition highlighted the great potential of space technology and applications to achieve and monitor each of the 17 SDGs.

Germany is committed to SDG implementation on multiple levels, also in its national space programme. There are already many German space activities contributing to a broad range of SDGs, such as SDG 11, 13, 14, 15 and 17. The **SDGs@DLR initiative** highlights these efforts to intensify scientific and technological cooperation for sustainable development.

While more initiatives are currently under consideration to increase visibility of these German contributions, let me already highlight two examples:

- i.) The German Environmental Mapping and Analysis Program (**EnMAP**) is a hyperspectral satellite mission, which was successfully launched in April 2022 with the aim to **monitor and characterize Earth's environment on a global scale**. EnMAP's unique data will be used internationally in many research areas, such as geology, agriculture, forestry, soil science, coastal areas and inland waters. The mission was prepared and is conducted in collaboration of DLR, the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences and OHB.
- ii.) In early February, German ESA astronaut Matthias Maurer conducted research on board the ISS for the **'MASON/Concrete Hardening' experiment**. This is being carried out jointly by DLR, the University of Cologne and the University of Duisburg-Essen as part of the Cosmic Kiss mission. It aims at optimizing the use of concrete by applying modern processes, which could **contribute to improving the climate balance**.

Germany continues to clearly commit itself to a multilateral approach in disaster and climate change management and reiterates its support of the use of space data for a better understanding of climate change. For the use of space-based data and applications for socioeconomic development, **particularly developing countries can benefit from access to open data and software to process it**.

In this context, we wish to highlight the ongoing efforts by UN-SPIDER, together with the University of Bonn, to bring together experts from all around the world to discuss space-based solutions for disaster management. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, **UN-SPIDER and the University of Bonn manage to conduct their capacity-building efforts** also using virtual channels. Their latest International Conference brought together more than 100 experts from more than 30 countries in November 2021 and a dedicated panel session during the aforementioned Living Planet Symposium was held only a few days ago.

Finally, Germany continues to actively contribute to the International Charter 'Space and Major Disasters'. Through Terra-SAR-X and TanDEM data as well as RapidEye images, Germany provides high-quality satellite data to the Charter to support emergency response. The charter has been used to **provide immediate help during a growing number of flood disasters, landslides and devastating earthquakes** throughout the past year.

Germany is looking forward to further strengthening the sustainable use of outer space for sustainable development in the years ahead.

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for your kind attention.